

REMARKS

In the parent application (Serial No. 09/795,872, filed Feb. 28, 2001) a restriction requirement was issued on November 16, 2001. Applicants elected the claims of Group I (original claims 1-33 and added claim 42) for examination. The instant amendment cancels the claims of Group I and III as defined in the November 2001 restriction requirement and presents the claims of Group II as defined therein. The claims have been amended to cancel multiple dependent claims and to better conform the claim format to US practice. The claim amendments are fully supported by the claims as originally filed.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw each rejection and pass the claims to allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to resolve any issues, in order to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



March 31, 2004

Date

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